

CHAPTER 3
SECTION 15.13

RADIOFREQUENCY FACET RHIZOLYSIS

Issue Date: October 12, 1984

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(c\)\(2\)](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODE

64622 - 64623

II. DESCRIPTION

A procedure used for the alleviation of chronic back pain including the use of a local anesthetic around the lumbar vertebral facets with subsequent electro-coagulation.

III. POLICY

Radiofrequency facet rhizolysis is a covered procedure.

IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. The radiofrequency facet rhizolysis is indicated for patients who:

1. Have not had surgery for disc disease but who have chronic low back pain and are not candidates for surgery; and

2. Those patients who have had previous surgery, but have persistent chronic low back pain.

B. Claims must include documentation that conservative management of low back pain has failed and that standard surgical treatment has been attempted or is medically contraindicated. All claims for this treatment require medical review prior to payment.

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